

(3)
24 JUN 1956
1 *William S.B.*
2 *Libby*

BIGGLESWADE URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1956

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR



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A N N U A L R E P O R T F O R 1 9 5 6

To The Members of the Biggleswade Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions relating to the Biggleswade Urban District for the year 1956.

A review of the vital statistics reveals the adjusted death rate as 10.4 as compared with a rate of 15.0 for 1955. This drop in the rate was possible by the use of a comparability factor which now takes into account the excess number of deaths amongst inmates, mostly aged; in the hospital and in "The Limes". If this factor had not been used the crude death rate would have been 19. The rate for England and Wales being 11.7.

The birth rate was higher than that for 1955 and also higher than the County as a whole. The infant mortality rate of 15.6 was much lower than the rate for 23.8 for England and Wales.

Of the 42 cases of infectious disease notified measles accounted for 31. There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria, and no deaths from any infectious disease.

I am again grateful for the willing assistance given to me by your Officers and their staffs.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.A. Harvey

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	4,647
Registrar-General's estimate of Home Population	7,740
Number of inhabited houses end of 1956.....	2,469
Rateable Value	£90,034
Sum represented by a penny rate..	£184.18. 7d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	57	61	118
Illegitimate	6	4	10
	<u>63</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>128</u>
Crude birth rate per 1,000 Home population			16.5
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 Home population...			16.4
Birth rate for England and Wales			15.7

Still Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Still Birth rate per 1,000 Total Births			7.8
Still Birth rate for England and Wales			23.0

Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes	81	66	147
Crude death rate per 1,000 Home population			19.0
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 Home population...			10.4
Death rate for England and Wales			11.7
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth :			
From Sepsis			-
From other causes.			-

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births			15.6
Rate for England and Wales... ..			23.8

Deaths from

Measles (all ages)			-
Whooping Cough			-
Influenza			1
Cancer (all ages)			21

STATISTICAL TABLE 1947 - 1956.

Year	DEATH RATE		BIRTH RATE		INFANT MORTALITY RATE	
	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales	Biggleswade Urban	England & Wales
1947	11.4	12.0	20.9	20.5	56.0	41
1948	10.5	10.8	16.7	17.9	40.6	34
1949	10.5	11.7	16.8	16.7	16.1	32
1950	9.4	11.6	18.3	15.8	15.3	29.8
1951	11.4	12.5	16.4	15.5	16.8	29.6
1952	11.9	11.3	15.4	15.3	35.1	27.6
1953	13.7	11.4	11.7	15.5	11.5	26.8
1954	12.6	11.3	14.6	15.2	17.7	25.5
1955	15.0	11.7	14.8	15.0	0.0	24.9
1956	10.4	11.7	16.4	15.7	15.6	23.8



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CAUSES OF DEATH, 1956.

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics :-

<u>Cause of Death</u>				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.....	.....	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	.....	.....	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	.....	.....	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	.....	.....	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough.	.....	.....	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections.	.....	.....	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	-	-
8.	Measles	.....	.....	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	.....	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	.....	.....	1	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus..	.....	.....	4	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	.....	.....	-	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.....	.....	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.....	.....	7	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia....	.....	.....	-	-
16.	Diabetes	.....	.....	1	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	.....	.....	17	11
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	.....	.....	8	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease....	.....	.....	1	-
20.	Other heart disease	.....	.....	12	9
21.	Other circulatory disease	.....	.....	4	-
22.	Influenza	.....	.....	1	-
23.	Pneumonia	.....	.....	6	6
24.	Bronchitis.....	.....	.....	5	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	.....	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	.....	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	.....	.....	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis..	.....	.....	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	.....	.....	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion....	.....	.....	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations.	.....	.....	1	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	.....	8	15
33.	Motor vehicle accidents..	.....	.....	1	1
34.	All other accidents	.....	.....	3	2
35.	Suicide	.....	.....	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war.....	.....	.....	-	-
<u>Total all causes.....</u>				<u>81</u>	<u>66</u>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers :

Medical Officer of Health -

C.A. Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor -

T. Wilson, M.Inst.M.E., M.R.S.I.

Laboratory Facilities :

The services of the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, is available for the examination of any material submitted by the Health Department or by General Practitioners. This service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council through the Ministry of Health, and there is no charge to the Council. The Laboratory undertakes the examination of throat swabs, sputum, urine and faeces, and blood from all cases of suspected infectious disease, and advice and assistance is always available.

Services provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946 :

1. Ambulance :

The Bedfordshire County Council provides a complete service covering the whole of the County. The service is a twenty-four hour one and is free of charge, and is available for the removal of all cases requiring admission to hospital and also for the transport of patients who are unable to use other means of transport to and from hospitals or clinics, so that they can receive any necessary treatment. The request for the provision of an ambulance must be made by a General Practitioner or by an Authorised Person.

The service is also available for the transport of persons suffering from infectious disease to isolation hospital.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County :-

Biggleswade : Crab Lane.

Tel: Biggleswade 2295.

Bedford : Bedford Road, Kempston. Tel: Bedford 5335 and 5336.

2. Midwifery and Domiciliary Nursing Services :

The County Council are the responsible Authority for these services. One midwife is available for Maternity cases and one Nurse for Minor Medical and Surgical Cases.

Name and Address of Midwife :-

Miss M.P. Stafford,

17 Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

(Tel.No. Biggleswade 3266).

Name and Address of District Nurse :-

Miss E. Dillistone,

2 High Street, Biggleswade.

(Tel.No. Biggleswade 3177).

3. Health Visiting :

Name and Address of Health Visitor :-

Miss D. Cannon,

The Lawns Health Centre, Biggleswade.

(Tel.No. Biggleswade 2158).

4. Clinic :

Maternity and Child Welfare :-

Child Welfare - "The Lawns", Biggleswade, Tuesday afternoons.

Ante and Post Natal - "The Lawns", Biggleswade, alternate Tuesday mornings.

Services provided by the Regional Hospital Board :

1. Venereal Disease Clinic :

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing. The days and times of attendances are :-

Males and Females - Wednesday, 5 - 7 p.m.

Friday, 3 - 5 p.m.

2. Tuberculosis Clinic :

The Chest Clinic, Bedford General Hospital, North Wing,

Kimbolton Road, Bedford. The days and times of attendance are :

Monday	.....	2-2.30 p.m. and 6-6.30 p.m.	Refills (A.P. and P.P.)
Tuesday	.....	9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	(Women and children-
		2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	(new and old patients
Wednesday	.....	9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Contacts
		2-3.30 p.m.	Doctors Mini Film Clinic
		3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.	To examine films sent by
			Factory Doctors
Thursday	.....	9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.	Males-old and new patients

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply :

Water is supplied to the area by the Biggleswade Water Board and has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples have been taken periodically during the year and the results have shown that the supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

The following report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of a sample sent for examination on 22nd February, 1956, is typical :

Chemical Examination in parts per Million

Appearance - Clear and bright.

Colour	.....	.....	.....	3
Odour	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Turbidity	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Reaction pH.....	.....	.....	.....	7.1
Free Carbon Dioxide	.....	.....	.....	28
Total Solids dried at 180 deg. C....	.....	.....	.....	375
Chlorine present as Chloride	.....	.....	.....	19
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.....	.....	.....	.....	103
Hardness : Total	.....	.....	.....	290
Carbonate	.....	.....	.....	24.5
Non-Carbonate..	.....	.....	.....	4.5

Chemical Examination in parts per Million (contd..) :

Nitrate Nitrogen	.....	.....	0.00
Nitrite Nitrogen	.....	.....	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen *	.....	.....	0.13
Albuminoid Nitrogen *	.....	.....	0.000
Metals	.....	.....	Absent
Free Chlorine Reaction	.....	.....	-
Oxygen absorbed.....	.....	.....	0.00
Residual Chlorine...	.....	.....	Absent

* To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar -

1 day at 37 degs. C.....	.....	0 per ml.	
2 days at 37 degs. C.....	.....	0 per ml.	
3 days at 20 degs. C.....	.....	0 per ml.	
	Present	Absent	Probable
	in	from	Number
Presumptive Coliform reaction.	-ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	-ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction	-ml.	100 ml.	

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Drainage and Sewage_:

With the exception of a few cottages on the Langford Road and some outlying cottages, the whole of the area has a water carriage system. The sewage disposal plant has been working to capacity. The length of new sewers laid during the year is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report. The cesspools of the outlying un-sewered properties are emptied by arrangement.

RAINFALL - 1956.

MONTH	TOTAL Inches	GREATEST RAINFALL IN 24 HOURS		No. OF DAYS WITH			DAYS NO RAIN
		Inches	Dates	Slight trace	.01 or over	.04 or over	
January	3.40	0.51	22nd	1	5	14	11
February	0.39	0.06	20th	4	7	3	15
March	0.43	0.23	2nd	3	3	2	23
April	0.89	0.39	13th	NIL	5	5	20
May	0.34	0.18	29th	2	2	3	24
June	0.13	0.85	8th	2	3	8	17
July	3.10	0.96	19th	1	5	8	17
August	3.73	0.50	27th	NIL	5	15	11
September	1.96	0.42	6th	NIL	2	8	20
October	1.30	0.39	2nd	4	6	6	15
November	0.65	0.15	10th	3	5	6	15
December	2.49	0.69	15th	1	7	11	12
Total	21.81						200



INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) General Statistics :

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1956.

Disease	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total registered deaths
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	31	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia..	2	2	-
Measles	5	-	-
Total	42	2	-

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

	Under 1 Year. M. F.	1 to 3 M. F.	3 to 5 M. F.	5 to 10 M. F.	10 to 15 M. F.	15 to 25 M. F.	25 to 35 M. F.	35 to 45 M. F.	45 to 65 M. F.	65 and upwards M. F.	Total all ages.
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	4
Whooping Cough	1	2	2	1	9 14	-	-	-	-	-	31
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sec. 85

Scabies :

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons and contacts are treated at the Treatment Centre, Bedford.

Prevention of Blindness :

No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

School Closure :

It was not found necessary to close any schools in the area on account of infectious disease.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :

It was not found necessary to disinfect any houses during the year.

Thermatox disinfectors and Bombay liquid spray is available for use when required.

1. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The table given below shows the number of children under 15 years of age who have received protective treatment against Diphtheria. The County Council, under the National Health Service Act, 1946, provides this treatment free of charge through the family doctor or at school or a child Welfare Centre. The figures have been supplied by the Eastern Divisional Medical Officer. It is still necessary to urge all parents to give their children the protection which can be had free of cost from their own doctor or at a Welfare Clinic or at School.

The number of cases of and deaths from Diphtheria have shown a remarkable decline since the introduction of immunisation and no case has been notified in the district for several years. In order to ensure that outbreaks of this disease will not occur in the future, it is necessary that at least 75 per cent of all children under the age of 15 years should be protected effectively against the disease, i.e. they should have had either a primary immunisation or a "booster" injection within the last five years.

Protection against Whooping Cough :

Since 1st November, 1955 the County Council have made facilities available for the protection against Whooping Cough of young children who have not had the disease and whose parents are desirous of having such protection given to their children. The Whooping Cough vaccine can be given alone or in combination with Diphtheria prophylactic.

Primary Immunisations completed during 1956.

Number of children during the year 1955 who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authority's area (including Temporary Residents).

Age at 31.12.56: i.e. Born in year	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
No. immunised	28	40	9	2	10	27	1	117

II. Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation.

Age at date of notification	Number of cases notified	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of immunisation	Age at date of death	Number of deaths	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had completed full course of immunisation
Under 1	-	-	Under 1	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-
2	-	-	2	-	-
3	-	-	3	-	-
4	-	-	4	-	-
5 to 9	-	-	5 to 9	-	-
10 to 14	-	-	10 to 14	-	-
Totals	-	-	Totals	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of new cases, and the number of deaths in their age groups.

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken under these regulations, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Report of Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Year Ended 31st December, 1956.

Building Plans :

The following building plans were approved by the Council and work inspected and drains tested during course of construction :-

Dwellings	.....	.....	.....	33
Alterations, additions, conversions....				23
Garages	.....	.....	.....	15
Caravans	.....	.....	.....	2
Accesses	.....	.....	.....	-
Workshops	.....	.....	.....	1
Factories	.....	.....	.....	2
Petrol Tanks	.....	.....	.....	1
Change of Use	.....	.....	.....	-
Advertisement Signs	.....	.....	.....	8
Greenhouses, Agricultural buildings, store sheds etc..	.....	.....	.....	9
				<u>94</u>

The commencement of the construction of a new Public Convenience and the completion of a new Cemetery extension was also carried out by this Council.

General Sanitary Inspections :

The following inspections were made and nuisances abated or defects remedied where necessary by informal action :-

Housing defects....	.....	.....	1700
Unfit Houses	.....	.....	41
Defective drains...	.....	.....	19
Factories	.....	.....	12
Food Premises	.....	.....	30
Water Wastage	.....	.....	803
			<u>2605</u>

Sixty one inspections were made in connection with Rodent Control, treatment being necessary in 11 cases.

Meat and Other Foods :

Regular meat inspection duties have been carried out by the Council's staff at the three licensed slaughterhouses in the district. The following animals were slaughtered and inspected :-

Steers and Heifers.	.....	.....	455
Pigs	.....	.....	481
Sheep and Lambs....	.....	.....	790

The following foodstuffs were rejected as unfit for human consumption :-

Carcase meat	.....	.....	.....	100 lbs.
Offal	.....	.....	.....	150 lbs.
Livers	.....	.....	.....	380 lbs.
Hearts	.....	.....	.....	4 lbs.
Heads and Tongues..	.....	.....	.....	10 lbs.
Sausages	.....	.....	.....	18 lbs.
Canned Meat	.....	.....	.....	19 lbs.
Various tinned foods	.....	.....	.....	19 tins.
Flour	.....	.....	.....	20 - 140 lb. bags.

Factories and Workshops :

The following factories and workshops are registered :-

Brewers	.....	.....	.....	1
Millers	.....	.....	.....	3
Motor & Cycle Engineers....	.....	.....	.....	10
General Engineers	.....	.....	.....	4
Joiners	.....	.....	.....	4
Plumbers	.....	.....	.....	4
Printers	.....	.....	.....	2
Tailors	.....	.....	.....	2
Boot Repairers...	.....	.....	.....	4
Laundry	.....	.....	.....	1
Caravans	.....	.....	.....	1
Lingerie & Clothing Manufacture	.....	.....	.....	3
Bookbinding	.....	.....	.....	1
Miscellaneous....	.....	.....	.....	16

House Scavenging :

One 18 cubic yard Dennis "Paxit" refuse collecting vehicle is used for the collection of houses and trade refuse. This is supplemented from time to time as may be required by a 10 cubic yard Karrier vehicle. Refuse disposal is effected by means of controlled tipping.

Waste paper is not collected, but the salvage of scrap metal and rags etc. has been continued and is undertaken during the course of normal refuse collection. A bonus scheme is in operation for this work and a proportion of the income from the sale of salvage is paid to the collectors. The collections during the year were as follows :-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>qrs.</u>
Scrap Iron.	3	3	1
Mixed Aluminium.	-	7	2
Brass & Copper.	-	2	3
Rags.	2	4	-
Bottles.		104 Dozen.	

Sewerage :

No new sewers were laid during the year, but a commencement was made towards the end of the year on the laying of sewers to serve a proposed Council's Housing Site at Elm Road and Mead End. In addition 10 new connections were made to existing sewers.

Water Supply :

A further length of 178 lin.yds of 3" cast iron water mains was laid to a private housing estate in course of construction at Boddington Gardens. Fifty five new connections were made to the Council's mains.

The total consumption of water for the year inclusive of trade supplies was 116,916,000 gallons. This shows an increase of approximately 1,000,000 gallons on the figures for the previous year. The overall daily consumption of water was approximately 42 gallons per head of the population.

803 inspections for water wastages were made. 14 notices were served requiring repairs to prevent waste and 768 taps were re-washed free of charge.

Housing :

A scheme for the construction of six houses was completed, and work continued on a further scheme for 43 traditional-type houses, 25 of these being completed during the year.

A scheme for six Old People's Bungalows was also carried out, and construction work for a further two bungalows commenced.

Work on the construction of roads, sewers and watermains for a further scheme comprising 28 houses was commenced.

Six pairs of Duplex Flats were converted to provide single houses, and a scheme of improvements to provide ceilings etc. in 22 existing pre-war houses carried out. Contracts for the construction of 13 garages on the Council's Hitchmead Housing Estate were completed.

T. WILSON, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Stratton House,
The Baulk,
Biggleswade.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I.

1. Inspections :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	11	3	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	45	9	-	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total	56	12	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conv:					
a. Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not incl. offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII.

Outwork.

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel (making).	2	-	-	-	-	-

